

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 120244  
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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DRAFTED BY EA/J:EMFEATHERSTONE;EA/P:MSMITH  
APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEESTEEN  
EA/J - WCSHERMAN  
DOD/ISA - DLOHMANN  
NSC - JSCHECTER  
S/P - AROMBERG  
PM/ISP - JLEONARD (SUBS)  
S/S-O RPERITO

-----250124Z 030975 /14

O 250043Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE  
COMUS/JAPAN YOKOTA IMMEDIATE  
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 120244

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: BRZEZINSKI INTERVIEW  
REF: TOKYO 7541

1. RELEVANT PORTION OF BRZEZINSKI INTERVIEW FOLLOWS:  
QUOTE

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT: IS THERE A DANGER THAT PRESIDENT  
CARTER'S PLAN TO WITHDRAW AMERICAN GROUND FORCES FROM  
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PAGE 02 STATE 120244

SOUTH KOREA WILL CREATE AN IMPRESSION IN ASIA THAT THE  
UNITED STATES IS WEAKENING IN ITS COMMITMENTS?

A. FOR ONE THING, THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED IN A  
TREATY RELATIONSHIP TO SOUTH KOREA, AND THAT TREATY  
RELATIONSHIP IS BINDING.  
SECOND, THE UNITED STATES HASN'T WITHDRAWN ANY TROOPS

FROM SOUTH KOREA. WE ARE ABOUT TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOUTH KOREANS AND WITH THE JAPANESE ABOUT WHAT KIND OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE ADEQUATE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THIS DECADE AND POINTING INTO THE 80S.

I THINK IT IS NOTEWORTHY ALSO THAT SOUTH KOREA HAS A POPULATION TWICE THAT OF NORTH KOREA AND A REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY, A MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WHICH IS VERY IMPRESSIVE, TROOPS WHICH HAVE PERFORMED VERY WELL -- MOST RECENTLY IN THE VIETNAM WAR. SO ONE CAN CERTAINLY TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE SITUATION IN KOREA TODAY IN CONTRAST TO THAT WHICH PREVAILED IN THE 1950S WHEN THE PRESENT MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS WERE SHAPED. SOUTH KOREA THEN WAS IMPOVERISHED, DEVASTATED, RECENTLY OVERRUN, AND SO FORTH.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT RESPONSIBLE STATESMANSHIP ENTAILS THE REQUISITE OF PERIODICALLY LOOKING AT A SITUATION AND ASKING OURSELVES: "WHAT HAS CHANGED? IF SO, WHAT ADJUSTMENTS DO YOU MAKE?" IT DOESN'T MEAN MAKING SNAP DECISIONS, ALTERING ARRANGEMENTS CAPRICIOUSLY--BUT IT DOES MEAN MAKING JUDGMENTS AS TO WHAT IS POSSIBLE WHICH WAS NOT POSSIBLE IN THE PAST.

Q. ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE REACTION IN JAPAN-- THE SUGGESTION, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE JAPANESE MIGHT GO NUCLEAR?

A. THERE IS NOTHING IN JAPANESE POLITICS WHICH EVEN REMOTELY SUGGESTS THE LIKELIHOOD OF JAPAN GOING NUCLEAR, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 120244

EITHER BECAUSE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT OR ANY OTHER DEVELOPMENT. YOU CANNOT EVALUATE POLICY ALTERNATIVES ON THE BASIS OF EXTREME SPECULATIVE CONSEQUENCES. UNQUOTE

2. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED FOR USE AS APPROPRIATE:

Q. CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT DR. BRZEZINSKI MIGHT HAVE MEANT BY NEW SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR JAPAN AND KOREA IN THE 1980S, AS REPORTED IN U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT?

A. OF COURSE DR. BRZEZINSKI WAS NOT SPEAKING OF NEW TREATY ARRANGEMENTS. THE PRESIDENT HAS REAFFIRMED OUR EXISTING TREATY COMMITMENTS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. DR. BRZEZINSKI WAS SPEAKING OF THE SITUATION FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR GROUND TROOPS FROM KOREA, BUT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OUR PRESENT SECURITY TREATIES WITH JAPAN AND KOREA.

Q. DOES THE SECURITY CONCEPT DISCUSSED BY MR. BRZEZINSKI

ENVISION A STRENGTHENING OF THE JAPANESE DEFENSE ROLE?

A. AS I MENTIONED ABOVE, MR. BRZEZINSKI DID NOT SPEAK OF ANY NEW "SECURITY CONCEPT." WE HAVE URGED JAPAN FOR MANY YEARS TO UPGRADE QUALITATIVELY ITS SELF-DEFENSE FORCES. WE HAVE NEVER URGED SIGNIFICANT QUANTITATIVE EXPANSION OF THE SDF OR ITS ASSUMPTION OF A REGIONAL SECURITY ROLE.

3. BRZEZINSKI INTERVIEW WAS NOT RAISED AT 5/24 DEPARTMENTAL PRESS BRIEFING. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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